

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00549 01 OF 02 201141Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----060330 201143Z /10

O 201110Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6972
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 549

EXDIS

MOGADISCIO FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH SALISBURY REPRESENTATIVES

REF: (A) PRETORIA 1653, (B) PRETORIA 1564,

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF SECOND MEETING WITH RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVES HELD IN PRETORIA ON MARCH 18. THE RHODESIANS ASKED A NUMBER OF APPARENTLY PREPARED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE, BUT REPEATED THEIR VIEW THAT THEY SAW LITTLE PROSPECT THAT EITHER SALISBURY OR THE PF WOULD AGREE TO ATTEND. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN SECOND MEETING HELD AT BRITISH EMBASSY ON MARCH 18, RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVES ASKED DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE. GAYLARD SAID HE DOUBTED IF THE CONFERENCE COULD ACHIEVE ANY RESULTS WITHOUT A NARROWING OF THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES BEFOREHAND. HE REPEATED THAT THE SALISBURY GROUP WOULD NOT WANT TO REOPEN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS IN

SECTION A OF THE INTERNATL AGREEMENT, BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOME PROSPECTS OF NARROWING THE GAP ON TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS. GAYLARD SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO FEEL OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PF FLEXIBILITY BEFORE PROCEEDING. HAWKINS ALSO ECHOED THE VIEW THAT THERE WAS LITBP PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS. HE PREDICTED THE PF WOULD ATTEMPT TO STEP UP THE CONFLICT BUT SAID THAT THE SALISBURY LEADERS BELIEVE IT WILL FAIL. HAWKINS SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LET THE SITUATION "SORT ITSELF OUT" AFTER WHICH THERE WOULD BE A BETTER CHANCE "FOR MARRYING UP OUR TWO POSITIONS." GAYLARD AGAIN REPEATED THE POINT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING IN NKOMO.

3. ON TIMING, GAYLARD SAID THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO GET ITSELF ESTABLISHED AND SHOW SOME PROGRESS. THUS IT WOULD VERY LIKELY NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, THERE WOULD BE NO REPLY TO THE INVITATION UNTIL IT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED INTERNALLY. GAYLARD IMPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS WITH HOLDING THE MEETING IN NEW YORK AS IT WAS SO FAR AWAY. HE THOUGHT ANY SUCH CONFERENCE COULD WELL RUN OVER A WEEK AND THIS WOULD COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM. HE SAID HE ASSUMED THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE THE FOUR COMPONENTS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND THE TWO CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTIES IN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, GRAHAM CONFIRMED THAT ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING AND THAT EACH DELEGATION COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE A MAXIMUM TOTAL OF 6 MEMBERS IN THE SESSIONS. GRAHAM ALSO CONFIRMED THAT PREM CHAND WOULD BE AT THE CONFERENCE AND VERY LIKELY LORD CARVER AS WELL.

4. GAYLARD ASKED IF THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE HALD ON THE BASIS OF HOSTILITIES CONTINUING, AND GRAHAM REPLIED THAT HE ASSUMED MILITARY ACTION WOULD GO ON ON BOTH SIDES. GAYLARD STATED THAT THE RHODESIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO STEP DOWN THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.

5. GAYLARD WISHED TO KNOW IF THE BASIS OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE WHITE PAPER. GRAHAM SAID THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT BOTH PARTIES WOULD COME WITH THEIR OWN POSITIONS AND THAT WE WOULD HOPE TO FIND AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE COMMON GROUND FOUND IN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AAP. GAYLARD ASKED IF OWEN WOULD BE IN THE CHAIR AND

IF HE WOULD BE A NEUTRAL CHAIRMAN OR REPRESENT THE
BRITISH POSITION. GRAHAM REPLIED THAT HE ASSUMED
OWEN WOULD CHAIR THE CONFERENCE AND THAT THE
BRITISH POSITION WAS EMBODIED IN THE AAP.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----060366 201150Z /15

O 201110Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 549

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6. GAYLARD SAID THAT THEY SAW THE INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT AS CONSISTENT WITH THE APP'S CONSTITUTIONAL
PRINCIPLES BUT THAT TRANSITION WAS THE MAIN ISSUE.
THERE WAS ANOTHER LENGTHY EXCHANGE ABOUT THE
INADEQUACIES AND AMBIGUITIES OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT
IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL AS WELL AS THE TRANSITIONAL AREA.
GAYLARD ADMITTED THAT THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT DID NOT
REPRESENT A TRANSFER OF POWER AND CONCEDED THAT SMITH
AT ANY TIME COULD TERMINATE THE ARRANGEMENT BUT HE
SAID THIS WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC. GAYLARD ALSO SUGGESTED
THIS PROBLEM COULD BE CORRECTED BY A CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSTITUTION
COULD BE RE-AMENDED AND THAT IN ANY EVENT THE CREDIBILITY
OF THE SETTLEMENT INVOLVED OTHER FAR-REACHING ISSUES.
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GAYLARD ATTEMPTED TO DRAW OUT STATEMENTS ON WHAT CHANGES IN THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT OR TESTS OF ITS ACCEPTABILITY BY THE PEOPLE WOULD MAKE IT MORE AGREEABLE TO THE US AND THE UK. THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS REITERATED THE REQUIREMENTS OF A TRANSFER OF POWER, AN END TO THE WAR, AND A REASONABLE TRANSITION STRUCTURE OPEN TO ALL PARTIES.

7. GAYLARD CONCLUDED BY ASKING IF IN LIGHT OF THEIR EXPLANATIONS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT THEY COULD ANTICIPATE ANY CHANGE IN THE CRITICAL STAND OF THE US AND THE UK. GRAHAM SAID THAT WE WOULD REPORT THEIR STATEMENTS BUT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT DELUDE THEMSELVES INTO THINKING THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT COULD BE RECOGNIZED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-0450
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780349/aaaabouh.tel
Line Count: 191
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9754f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 1653, 78 PRETORIA 1564
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3272478
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH SALISBURY REPRESENTATIVES
TAGS: PDEV, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9754f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014